— Cost effectiveness.

Opending of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

39. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of post offices opened in Tamil Nadu during the financial year 1993-94.

(b) what is the total number of post offices opened throughout the country during the same period;

(c) how many proposals for opening of new post offices in Tamil Nadu are pending and by when these post offices will be opened; and

(d) how many post offices have been up-graded in Tamil Nadu during the said financial year and how many are proposed to be upgraded in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of Post Offices opened in Tamil Nadu during the year 1993-94 is 14.

(b) 801 Post Offices were opened in the country during the year 1993-94.

(c) Four such proposals are pending and they will be cleared subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resources.

(d) No Post Office was upgraded during this period. Two proposals for upgradation of post offices are under consideration.

Deduction of salary for strike period

40. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has deducted the salary for strike period, i.e. four days during the month of December, 1993 even though the strike was conducted with proper prior notice;

(b) what is the special reason for withholding the salary for four days while Government had agreed previously to pay the salary to the Postal employees of North Eastern States for forty days strike period; and

(c) whether Government would agree to pay the withheld salary amount to the Postal employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. It may, however be added that notice received from the employees' Federations/Associations proceeding on strike was in contravenion of various provisions of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947.

(b) At the time of withdrawal of strike by Postal employees of North Eastern States in December, 1991, a written agreement was made with the staff side to adjust the strike period by granting earned leave admissible as per rules. Therefore, strike period of postal employees of these states was regulated accordingly.

(c) A proposal to regulate the strike period of the Postal Departmental Employees is under consideration of the Government.

Corruption in the undertakings/organisations under Ministry of Communications

41. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 878 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August, 1994 and state:

(a) the names of the 34 officers together with the allegations made against them; and

(b) whether Government have taken action against these officers by October 30, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir, the requisite information is given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 173, Annexure No. 2)

Social audit panel

42. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Social Audit Panel set up by the Communications Ministry has assailed the policy of privatisation of telecom services on the basis of impressions gathered during its widespread interaction with consumers and telecom staff though-out the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tax evasion by soft drink manufacturers

43. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of tax evasions by leading soft drink manufacturers in the country have come to notice.

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to inspect the ledger of other multinational companies from time to time so that the cases of tax evasion could be detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance provided by UNDP

44. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of assistance provided by the UNDP during the last three years; and

(b) the details of various development programmes undertaken with such assistance, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The quantum of assistance provided by UNDP during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Amount in US$
1991	20,253,185
1992	18,367,246
1993	31,803,873

(b) UNDP technical assistance is provided according to the needs of various sectors within the purview of different Central Ministries/Departments. The details of these projects located in different States are given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 173, Annexure No. 3)

Reduction in import duty on aluminium industry

45. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the Indian Aluminium Industry to reduce import duties on raw material used for producing aluminium products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by Governme to assist the aluminium induustry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (and (b) Yes Sir. Government have received certain representation for reduction of import duty on aluminiu to nil.